

1
2
3
4
5
6 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
8

9 ROBERT W. MORRIS,) No. C 07-3377 JSW (PR)
10 Plaintiff,) **ORDER OF DISMISSAL**
11 vs.)
12 CORRECTIONAL OFFICER)
13 ALARCON, SERGEANT SANDY, and)
14 LIEUTENANT SCOTLAND,)
15 Defendants.)
_____)

16 Plaintiff, a prisoner of the State of California, currently incarcerated at the
17 Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, California, has filed a pro se civil rights
18 complaint under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff has filed a motion to proceed *in forma*
19 *pauperis*, which is now GRANTED in a separate order filed simultaneously (docket
20 no. 2). The Court now reviews the complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a) and
21 DISMISSES the complaint for the reasons set forth below.

22 **DISCUSSION**

23 Plaintiff's complaint alleges that he was falsely accused of participating in a riot
24 at the prison and that an inaccurate report resulted in his wrongful conviction in a
25 prison disciplinary proceeding. As a result of this disciplinary proceeding, Plaintiff
26 lost good time credit and was in administrative segregation for a lengthy period. He
27 seeks monetary damages, restoration of the lost credits and expungement of this
28 incident from his disciplinary record.

1 A. Standard of Review

2 Federal courts must engage in a preliminary screening of cases in which
3 prisoners seek redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a
4 governmental entity. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review the court must identify
5 any cognizable claims, and dismiss any claims which are frivolous, malicious, fail to
6 state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or seek monetary relief from a
7 defendant who is immune from such relief. *See id.* at 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se
8 pleadings must be liberally construed. *See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't*, 901 F.2d
9 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

10 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential
11 elements: (1) that a violation of a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the
12 United States was violated, and (2) that the alleged deprivation was committed by a
13 person acting under the color of state law. *See West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

14 B. Plaintiff's Complaint

15 In this case, Plaintiff has filed a § 1983 action when the disciplinary proceeding
16 and finding of guilt has not been reversed or otherwise invalidated. In order to recover
17 damages for allegedly unconstitutional conviction or imprisonment, or for other harm
18 caused by actions whose unlawfulness would render a conviction or sentence invalid, a
19 42 U.S.C. § 1983 plaintiff must prove that the conviction or sentence has been reversed
20 on direct appeal, expunged by executive order, declared invalid by a state tribunal
21 authorized to make such determination, or called into question by a federal court's
22 issuance of a writ of habeas corpus. *Heck v. Humphrey*, 512 U.S. 477, 486-487 (1994).
23 A claim for damages bearing that relationship to a conviction or sentence that has not
24 been so invalidated is not cognizable under § 1983. *Id.* at 487.

25 When a prisoner seeks damages in a § 1983 suit, the district court must
26 therefore consider whether a judgment in favor of the plaintiff would necessarily imply
27 the invalidity of his conviction or sentence; if it would, the complaint must be

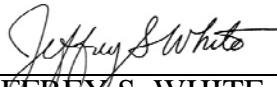
1 dismissed unless the plaintiff can demonstrate that the conviction or sentence has
2 already been invalidated. *Id.* at 487. Where a claim would, if successful, "necessarily
3 accelerate" the prisoner's release on parole, *Heck* applies. *Ramirez v. Galaza*, 334
4 F.3d 850, 858-59 (9th Cir. 2003) (interpreting *Neal v. Shimoda*, 131 F.3d 818 (9th Cir.
5 1997)). *Heck* also bars a claim for using the wrong *Wolff v. McDonnell*, 418 U.S. 539
6 (1974), procedures in a disciplinary hearing that resulted in the deprivation of time
7 credits if "the nature of the challenge to the procedures [is] such as necessarily to imply
8 the invalidity of the judgment." *Edwards v. Balisok*, 520 U.S. 641, 645 (1997).
9 Where, as here, a successful claim would "necessarily accelerate" Plaintiff's release
10 due to the restoration of good time credits, the action must be DISMISSED.

11 CONCLUSION

12 For the forgoing reasons, Plaintiff's complaint is hereby DISMISSED for the
13 reasons set forth above. The Clerk shall close the file and enter judgment in this case.

14 IT IS SO ORDERED.

15 DATED: October 30, 2007


16 JEFFREY S. WHITE
17 United States District Judge

26 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

27 FOR THE

1 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
2
3

4 ROBERT W. MORRIS,
5 Plaintiff,

Case Number: CV07-03377 JSW

6 v.
7 ARLACON et al,
8 Defendant.

9

10 I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District
Court, Northern District of California.

11 That on October 30, 2007, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing
12 said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by
13 depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office
delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

14
15 Robert W. Morris
K43112
16 P.O. Box 689
Soledad, CA 93960

17 Dated: October 30, 2007

Jennifer Ottolini
18 Richard W. Wieking, Clerk
19 By: Jennifer Ottolini, Deputy Clerk